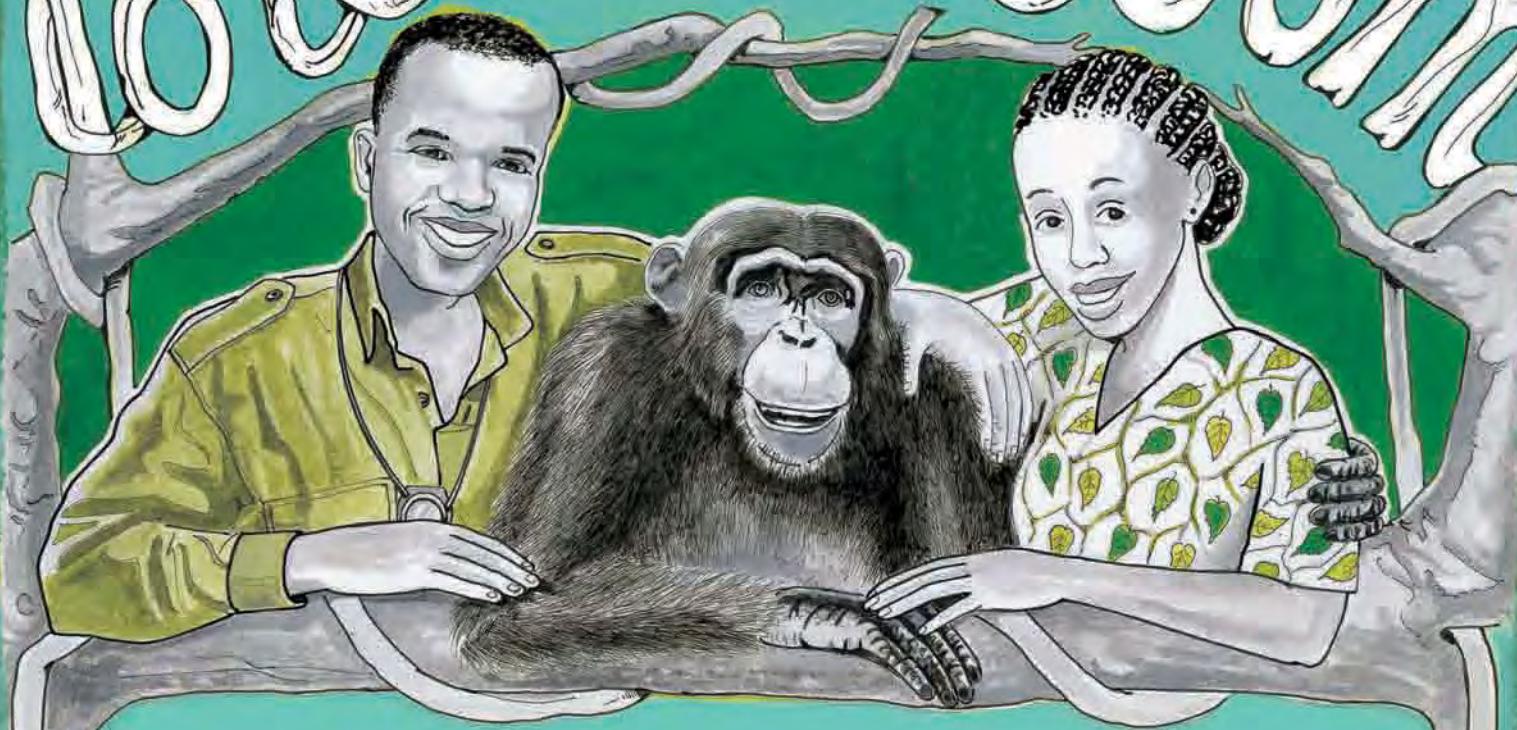


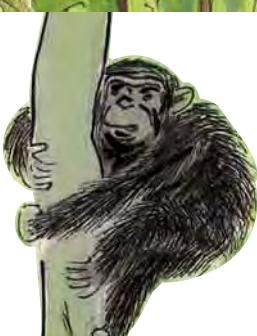
Forest Wisdom



Journal No. 10
June 2009



FOREST WISDOM



A NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF YOU

- Villagers who live near a national park
- Anyone who works for the conservation of forests

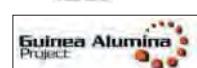


Awareness campaign in Liberia in March 2009 (p.16) – a challenging construction of a bridge!



Theatre "Touchatout" in Guinea in May 2009 – (p.24)

In 2008 and 2009, the WCF was financially supported for its awareness and bio-monitoring activities by private donations and the following organizations:



FOREST WISDOM

- Tells the story of special forest inhabitants: chimpanzees
- Shows the problems and threats to the forest
- Supplies information
- Answers your questions and invites you to contribute to this newsletter
- Invites you to protect the great forest, a national heritage that is yours as well

CONTENTS

Dans ce Numéro :

- Editorial p.3
- Knowledge of our ancestors p.4–5
- Hotch-Potch p.6
- WCF and its projects p.5, 7, 16, 24
- Portrait: Nana and Malibu and a very special adoption p.8–15
- Grégoire Nohon talks about ...
The masked chimpanzees p.17–23
- The tamtam ... p.24

Editorial Committee: Hedwige Boesch,
Christophe Boesch, Ilka Herbinger,
Zoro Bertin Goné Bi, Christine Levant

Comics & Text: Dao N'Daw Koumba
Illustrations: Désiré Koffi, Ben Amara Sylla

"Forest Wisdom" is published and distributed by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)*.



* WCF – Europe c/o Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Deutscher Platz 6, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

WCF – Africa c/o CSRS, 01 BP 1303, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast



EDITORIAL:

Elephants – only a famous Ivorian soccer team or marvelous animals?

Elephants – only a famous Ivorian soccer team?

In 1978, at the beginning of our stay in the Taï forest in Ivory Coast, we encountered elephants about twice a month while we were in the forest observing chimpanzees. One day, when my boots were well sunk into the mud, I suddenly found myself face to face with one of the elephants! He was standing there, not moving, looking at me as I approached him

Only the movements of his trunk by which he tried to smell me gave away his presence. He was very big and only 20 meters away from me. When I decided to retreat carefully, I realized that there was a baby elephant next to this immense animal. A little elephant whose height was only about one meter watched me with as much attention and curiosity as I watched him! We stood silently looking at one another as the elephant mother and her baby moved their ears in a threatening manner. After we had all observed one another, all three of us turned on our heels and ran in opposite directions.

Today, I am still deeply moved when I remember this event! For more than 15 years, I have not encountered any elephants in the research zone of the Taï National Park. Have elephants disappeared in Ivory Coast? Those animals that are the emblem of this beautiful country to whom its name "Ivory Coast" renders homage!

Majestically tall animals of up to 2,5 meters height and more than 3 tons weight, elephants have helped the Ivorian forests thrive and prosper since their beginning through natural seed dispersal in their droppings. Soon, our children will not remember the name "elephant" other than in connection with an Ivorian soccer team!

Important trees like the Makore that can be used to produce oil or the Coula nut tree will cease to exist since the dissemination and germination of seeds will not be

possible without elephants! If there are no more seeds, there will be no more trees! And all over the countries, it is truly hard for the women who have to walk always further to find some wood for cooking. Forests have become ancient history in too many regions!

In many western African regions, elephants have disappeared at the same time as the forests in which they lived have vanished. Similarly, the absence of water becomes critical. For this reason, urgent action is needed before it is too late. We have to protect the last remaining forests to ensure that there will be sufficient rain for the daily needs in the upcoming years, for our plantations and a happy future. Dear readers, to become involved, there are two important things to do! First, you should respect and ask the people in your community to respect the last remaining forests in your country, especially those in the national parks, the classified and sacred forests. It is not acceptable that these forests are destroyed for private and short-term interests, without considering the well-being and the future of the neighboring populations. We also have to promote that areas can be reforested as it has been done in Europe!

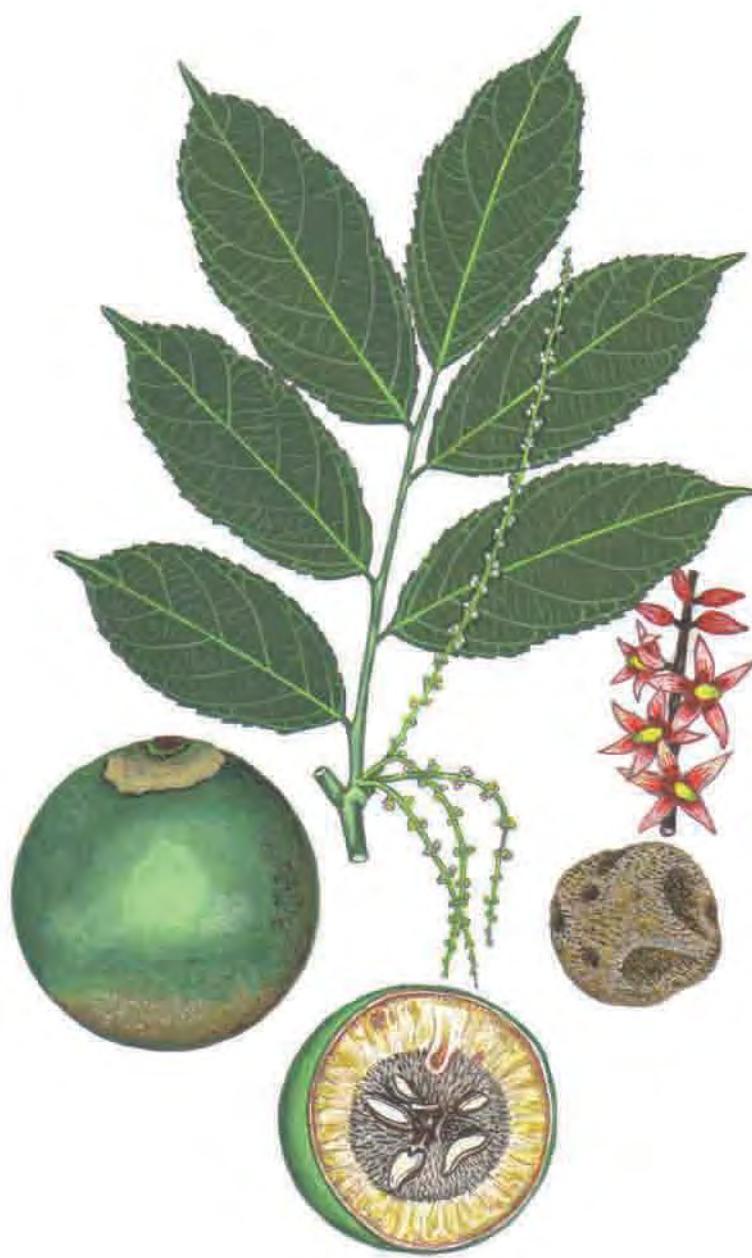
This leads me to my second point. If you have access to land, please plant forest plantations composed of different tree species for your children, for example: nut trees (*Coula edulis*), palm nut trees, Asparagus with *Ancistrophyllum*, trees for long sauces ("Kplé-tou" with *Irvingia* or "Bilihè" with *Beilschmiedia*) and fruit trees (*Dialium*, *Cola*) or forest raisins *Trichoscypha*. In doing so, you will be making a valuable contribution to the future survival of the African forests as well as stabilizing the climate for your children's future.

See you soon, Christophe Boesch



* "The Elephants" is the name of the national Ivorian soccer team.

KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ANCESTORS



Panda oleosa Pierre (Pandaceae)

Henri Téré, Hedwige Boesch
Drawing: Amon Aya Lazar

Local names in Ivory Coast: Aoukoua (Abey); Djilôb tou, Djilaê-tou (Guéré); Zéré zéré, Gére géré (Gouro)

Panda oleosa is a tree that grows to be about 20 meters in height. It can be found in all dense humid evergreen forests from Liberia to Congo. The tree is dioecious, meaning the female and male flowers are on separate trees. Its bark is a gray-green color, the timber is hard and a cut into the wood shows a brown-purple and white color. The leaves are simple, alternating (one simple leaf per bud) and grouped

together, giving the impression of composed leaves coin-like at the base and with serrated margins. The leaves are between 6 and 20 cm long, 4 to 9 cm wide and tough. The tree produces big globular fruits that are grouped together like grapes. The fruit has a fleshy inside of rose-orange color, which contains the unique “nut”. This nut is very greasy and hard, with a surface dotted with little holes. Inside, there are 3 to 4 oily almonds covered with a chocolate brown shell.

From February to March, these almonds are regularly consumed by the chimpanzees of the Taï forest in the west of Ivory Coast. They crack the nuts by using heavy stones averaging 2 to 12 kg which they must transport from one Panda tree to another since these stones are very rare in the forest and the trees are loosely scattered over long distances.

Use by humans: the fleshy fruits as well as the squashed bark, rich in tannins, are used for medical treatments against kidney and stomach pains. The timber is used for making anything that should be termite resistant, for mortars, for objects such as traditional combs, firewood, and charcoal. The oil extracted from the almonds can be used for cooking as well as in cosmetics.

And, to reminisce about the memory of the past days, here is a story which the elders still tell in their villages in the west of Ivory Coast when they hear the calls of monkeys in the forest ...

In former times, animals lived in a community in a place in the middle of the dense forest. Three different animal families could be distinguished: reptiles, carnivores and herbivores. Their big village was led by Guy, the leopard, and everything happened in harmony. Everyone took part in the labor required in the fields and the harvest.

Every year, when the time of the fruit harvest approached, the chimpanzee, Gouè, was eager to volunteer and organize the teams that would collect the fruits. Thanks to his determination to serve the community he became the leader of the teams.

Once, during the harvest of *Panda oleosa*, all the families decided to organize a ceremony to thank God, the creator of nature. Without hesitating,

KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ANCESTORS

Gouè, the chimpanzee, went into the forest with his team. When approaching the village in the evening, Gouè, heavily loaded with fruits, tampered with something in the shrubbery before he rejoined his team and returned to the village center, joyfully dancing and singing.

After having distributed the harvest under the eyes of the chief, the leopard, and a representative of every family, severe doubts arose on the quantity of *Panda oleosa* fruits. Quickly, Gouè, the chimpanzee, was exposed due to the testimony of Yré, the cercopithecus monkey. He said that Gouè had hidden some



WCF AND ITS PROJECTS ...

What kind of forests for our children?

Emma Normand

The disappearance of forests can have devastating consequences: the extinction of animals, climate change and poverty and famine in local human communities. The forest allows for the production of wood, as well as a stable, humid climate, which in turn allows for the production of cocoa, vegetables and rice. Its presence also prevents bushfires, floods and damage caused by storms. The forest is a haven for medicinal plants and fruits which can be used in delicious ancestral recipes. What's more, the forest permits animals to survive, which in turn regenerate the forest through natural dispersion of seeds.

It is very important to manage classified forests in a sustainable way to satisfy the needs of people today and in the future. For example, if we cut down a tree today in one hectare of forest, we should not come back to this area during the next 25 to 30 years to cut down another tree. In doing so, we use the forest without causing harm to it.

The SODEFOR (the Ivorian organization for the development of forests) manages the classified forests in Ivory Coast and has decided to work with the WCF to implement a sustainable management program for the classified forests of Cavally and Goin-Débé, close to the Taï National Park. To enable us to carry out this project, we have gratefully received a grant from the FFEM (the French Fund for World Environment).

Panda fruits in a secret place during their return from the harvest. In a very angry tone, the chief Guy interrogated Gouè, Yré, and the other members of the team to get to know more details on the place where the Panda fruits had been hidden.

Fearfully, Gouè looked embarrassed, averting his eyes to the ground without saying a single word. In the same moment, Yré, said the following: "Gouè tin dilôh dilôh manho", which means that the chimpanzee has collected the Panda, but the Panda is lost. Following this accusation, the leopard could no longer keep his temper, jumped on the chimpanzee and violently beat him up. Consequently, the chimpanzee and the cercopithecus fled into the forest. Since then, the leopard and the chimpanzee have been declared enemies and when, today, the villagers hear the monkeys call "Gouè tin dilôh dilôh manho" every night from the tree canopy, this means the cercopithecus still remembers this story and repeats it all over again.



HOTCH-POTCH

FOLLOWING THE TRACKS OF ...

Which animals left their tracks here ?



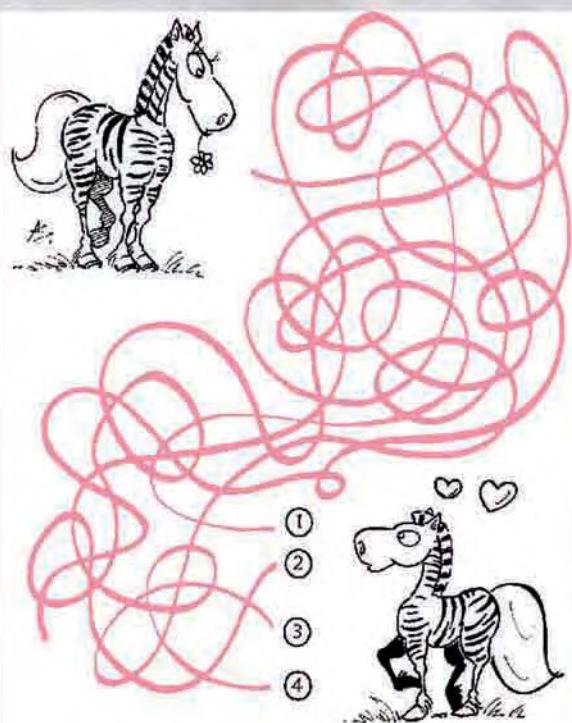
HAIR STORY

Which animal is hidden behind each of the photos ?



A LOVELY ZEBRA

Find the only possible way for the two zebras to come together.



MISSING LETTERS

A WISE MAN ONCE WROTE DOWN A VERY
IMPORTANT SENTENCE, BUT OVER THE YEARS, SOME
LETTERS HAVE DISAPPEARED... HELP US TO FIND THE
MISSING LETTERS. YOU CAN USE THE LETTERS
BELOW TO PUT THEM INTO THE BLOCKS TO
COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. HAVE FUN!

		U	R	E	N	O	U		H		U	S	,	L	
U	S	P		E		I	T	T	O		H	.			

ET	CT	ES	ER
RIS	GET	NAT	ROT

WCF AND ITS PROJECTS ...

Club PAN running for a second school year!

Claudia Borchers

“Why is it so important to protect the Taï National Park?” This is only one of the many questions that pupils of CM1 and CM2 in 10 schools around the Taï National Park in the Ivory Coast asked the organizer of the club, Ouattara Dabil, the class teachers, and Claudia Borchers, who supervises the “Club Pan” on behalf of the WCF during the entire school year. They all appreciate the enchanting puppets like Marius, the chimpanzee, and Pia, the leopard, who has accompanied them throughout the 10 lessons that all cover environmental aspects.

Club PAN toured in five schools of Soubré and Petit Tiémé situated to the east of the Taï National Park, as well as in schools of Paulé-Oula, Diéro-Oula, Sakré, Ziriglo and Taï to the west of the park. Numerous pupils who had already joined Club Pan during the previous year and have now passed on to CM2 or to college do not hesitate to take part again in the activities of the club whenever they have some spare time. Isn’t this a great compliment for “Club Pan”? We thank you all for your enthusiasm. You are always very welcome to join us and to share with your family and friends what you have learned while being in the club!

Our gratitude goes also to all our collaborators and all our donors, who have allowed us to continue the greatly prized project. Of course, we are determined to continue Club Pan in 2010.

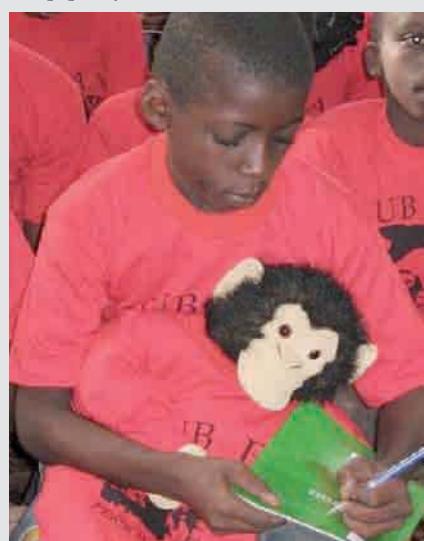


The coordinator Ouattara Dabila and Claudia Borchers explaining the game “food chain”

The pupils of Club PAN in Ziriglo working on lesson 10: the Taï National Park.



The pupils of Club PAN in Paulé-Oula



A pupil of Club PAN and “Marius” in Paulé-Oula



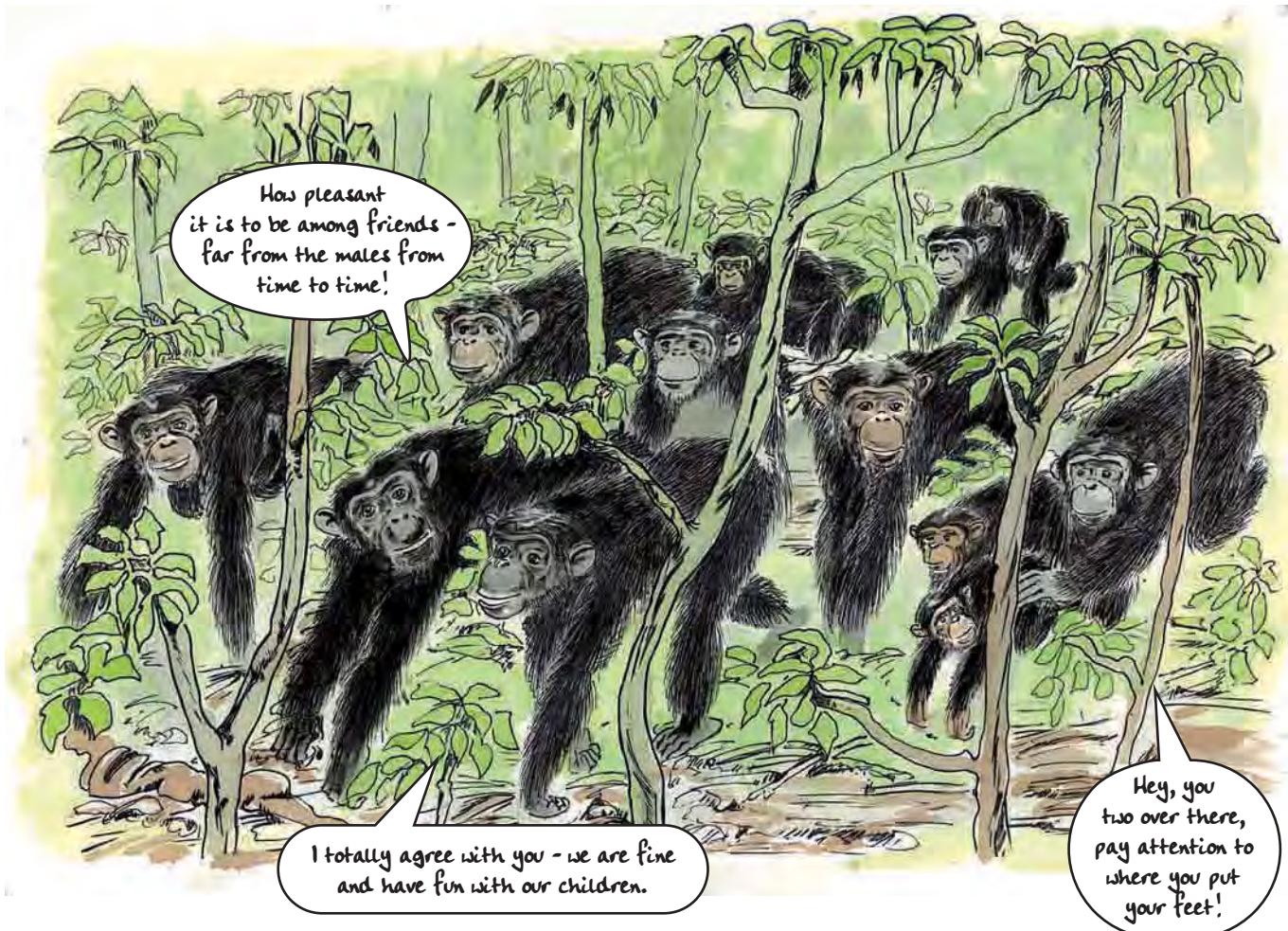
The greatly appreciated activities in the Museum and the Banco National Park continue: The photographs show the visit of two CNPS nursery school classes from Yopougon in March 2009. Ask your teachers to accompany you, too!



PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !

Hedwige Boesch

When observing chimpanzees in the Taï forest in Ivory Coast, one can regularly encounter groups of adult females with their infants. Typically, they spend time relatively far away from the males and seem happy to be “with their friends” and their infants who grow up under the caring watch of their mothers.



School theatre in Agban village in March 2009



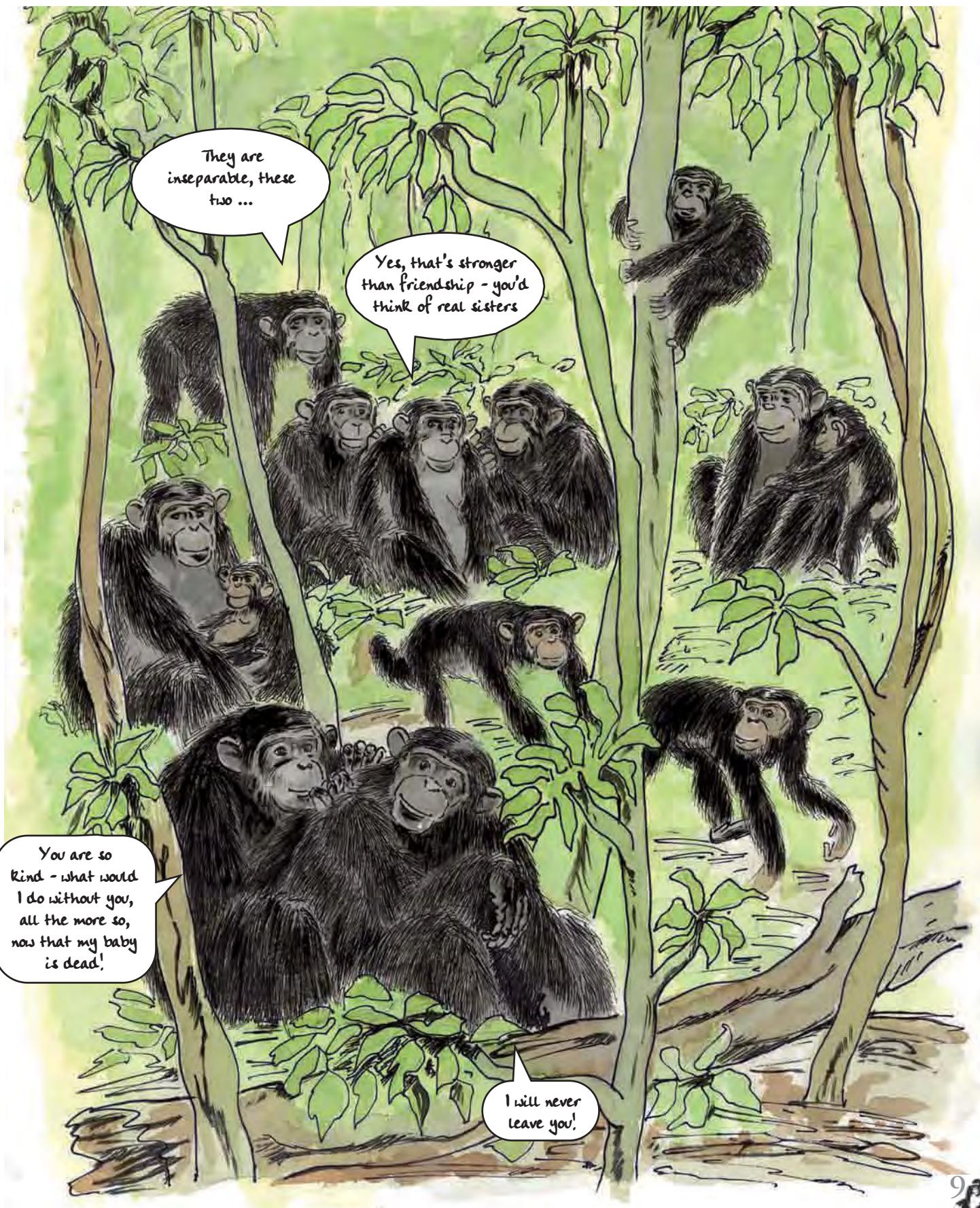
The sorcerer in the village has the power to turn people into chimpanzees to protect them from being attacked. Come and learn more about this theatre play!

Information on nursing groups

In all chimpanzee populations, researchers have observed what they call “nursing groups”. These females and their infants mainly travel together, support one another in dangerous situations like leopard attacks and occupy large areas that are rich in food within the territory of the community. A female resumes estrus cycles four to five years after the last birth of an infant, which means that she is again receptive for pregnancy. Therefore she will look for males and will follow them for some time within the main group of the community.

PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !

Malibu, a beautiful female, completely black and with a lovely face, was a member of such a group of adult females. She had a very strong friendship with Nana. They looked like each other, just "like sisters", but Nana was the stronger one. She was one of the rare females who drummed like the males do – but at the age of 14 years, she still did not have an infant. Malibu just lost her baby ...



PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !

And here comes the surprise. One morning Nana gave birth to her first baby – a little girl named “Nabu”, with a wonderful hair tuft on the top of her head, pointing straight upwards. How exciting!

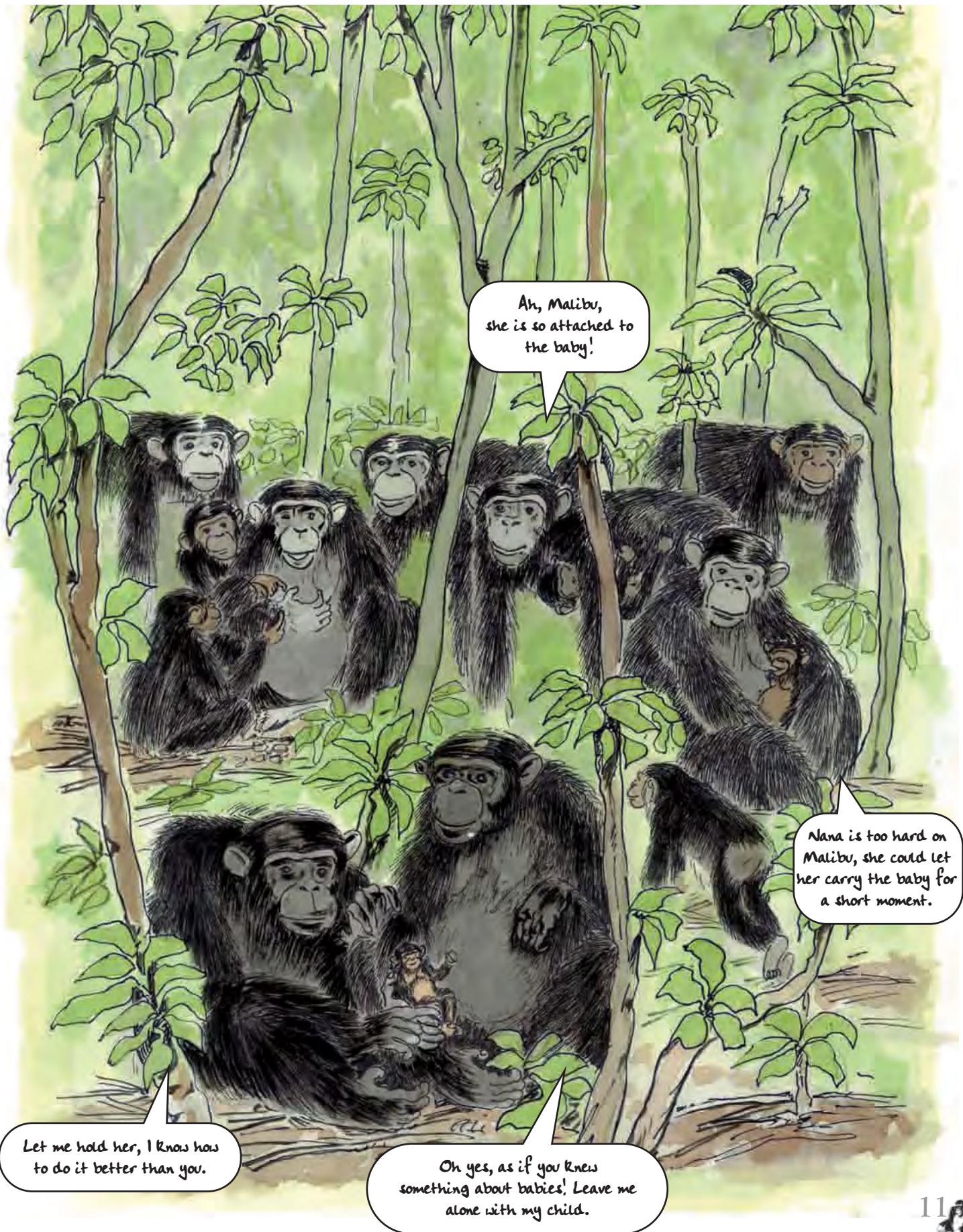


Nana seemed to be quite clumsy with her newborn baby. She tried to carry it as if it was supposed to be, against her belly, but did not support it with her hand. Nabu tried as best as she could despite her mother's clumsiness, sometimes hanging in the air, and learned quickly how to hold on tightly to her mother's coat to avoid falling down. We could not tell if Nana was even breastfeeding her.



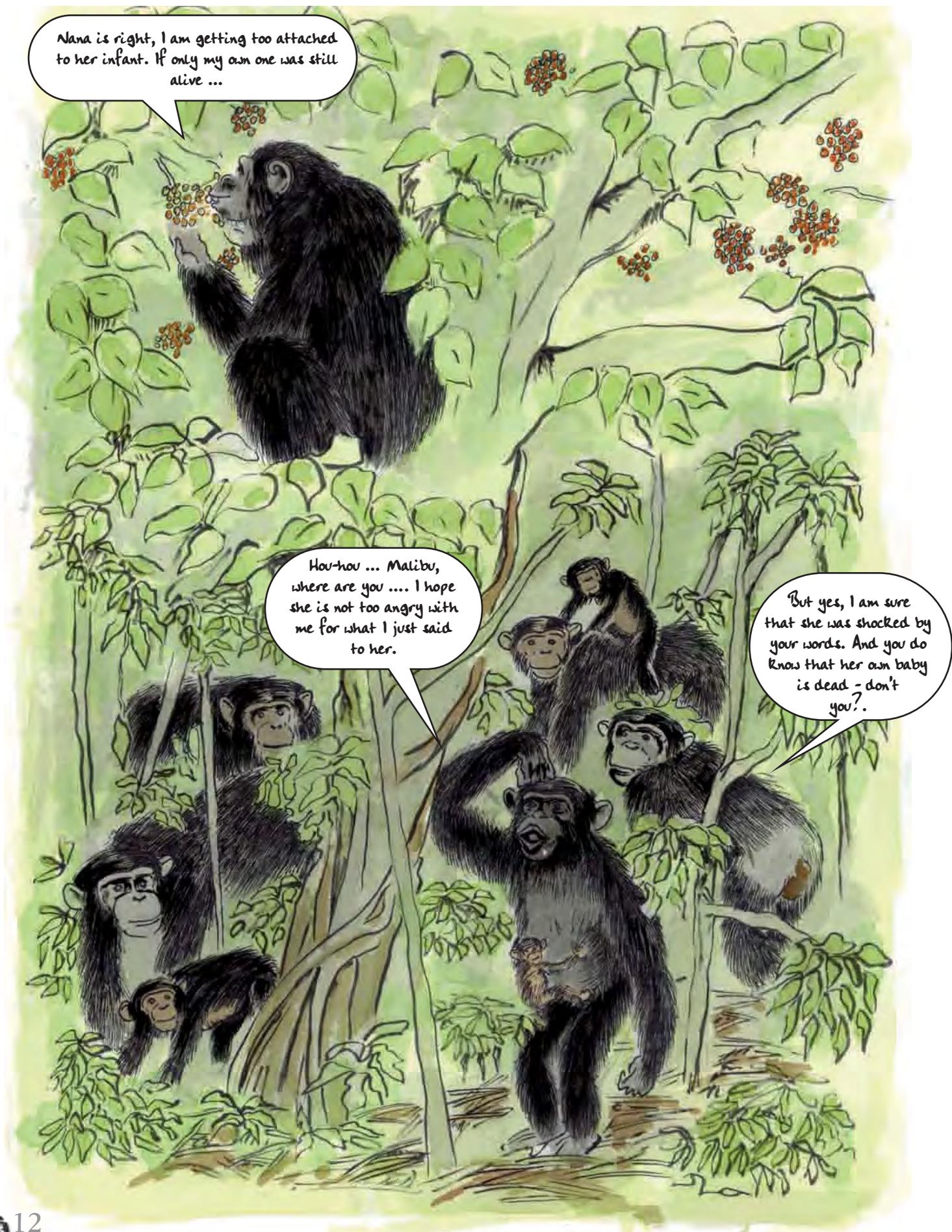
PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !

Malibu (we shouldn't forget that she just lost her child ...) stayed very close to Nana, followed her and was obviously very interested in the infant. She often groomed Nana but also touched the baby. This is not very exceptional among females, they all always do this since a newborn baby is such a big attraction!

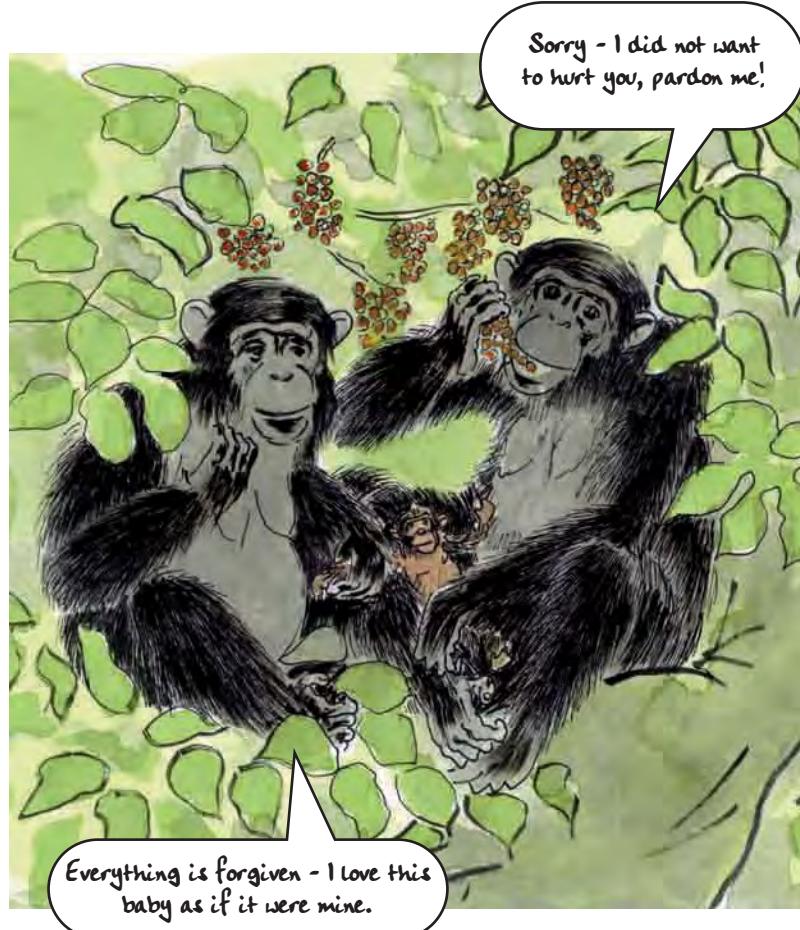


PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !

Malibu goes away – she is sad ... But as soon as she is out of sight, Nana looks for her and weeps silently.



PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !



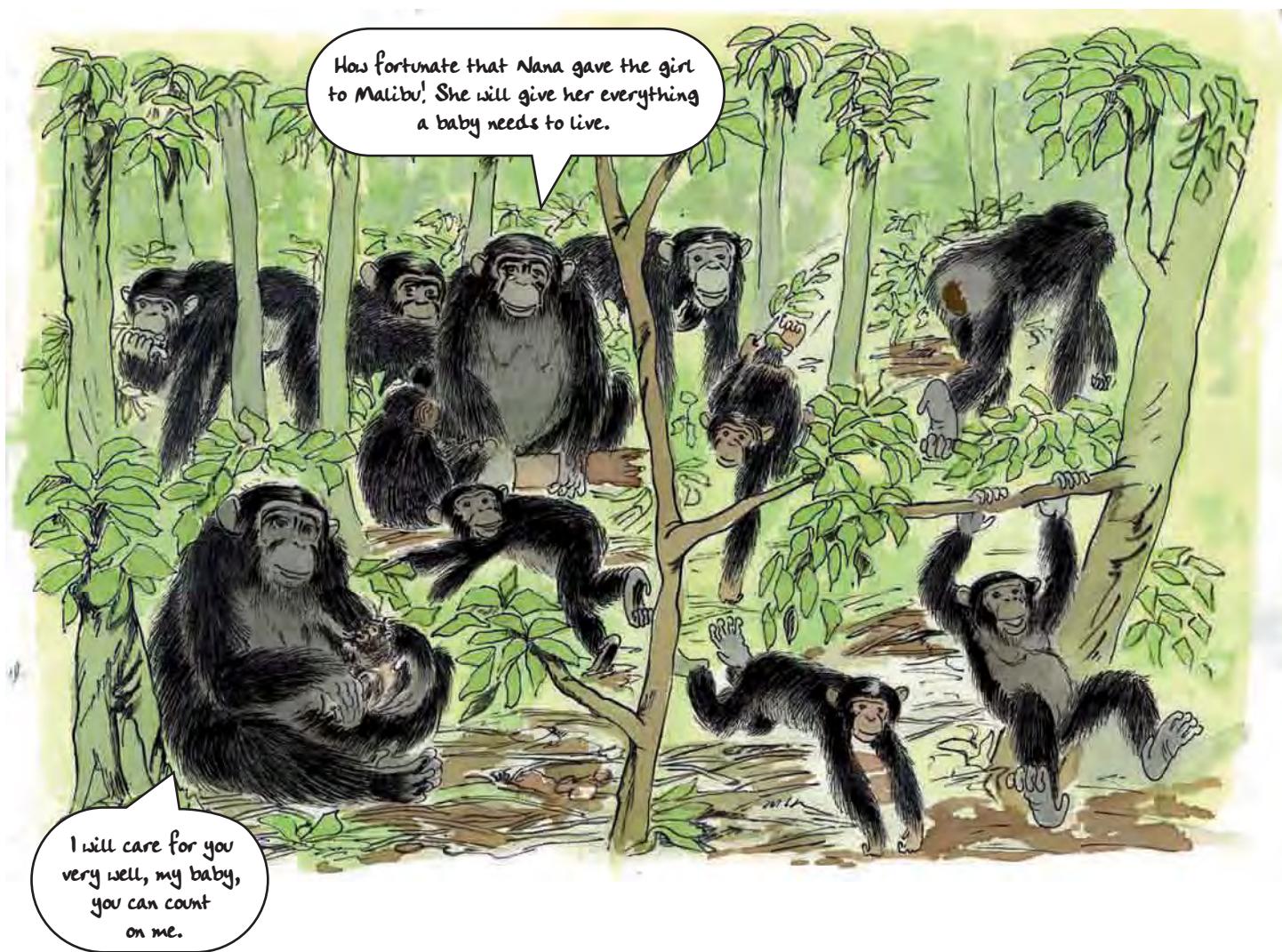
Some days later, Malibu climbed into a fig tree whose foliage was very dense. Nana followed her very closely with the baby against her belly. We could hear them quietly eat the juicy fruits. No shouts and no disputes disturbed the peaceful environment in the midday heat.

About 30 minutes later, Nana climbed down the tree *without her baby*, followed by Malibu who carried the infant against her belly – as if it would be totally normal!!!

We did not see anything of the hidden transfer that happened in the branches of the fig tree: Did Nana hand over the infant to Malibu? Did Malibu tug at her and then Nana let her take the baby? But the most important question is not how it happened but why: Did Nana realize that she could not ensure the survival of her infant so that she decided to give her to Malibu?



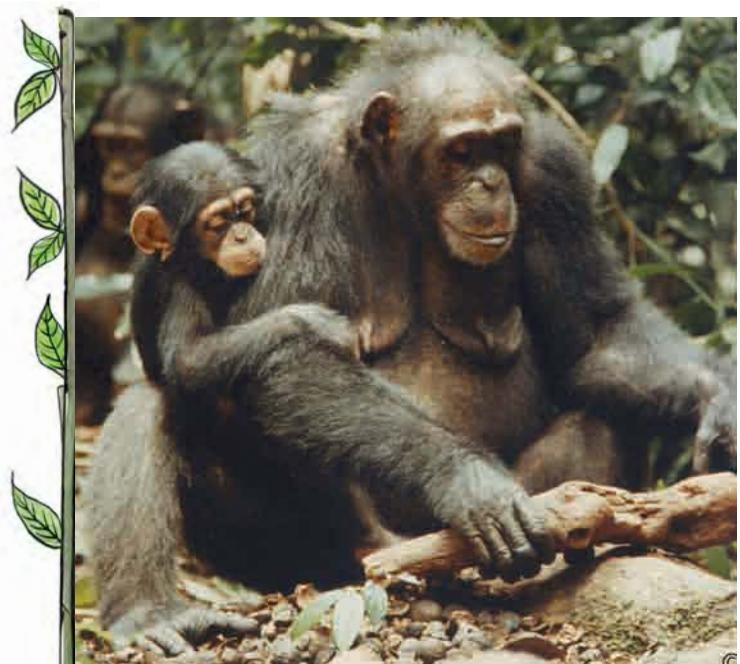
PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !



Nabu was fortunate, since Malibu cared for her very passionately: she carried her, breastfed her and cuddled her adopted baby like a real mother! And Nana remained the best friend of Malibu!

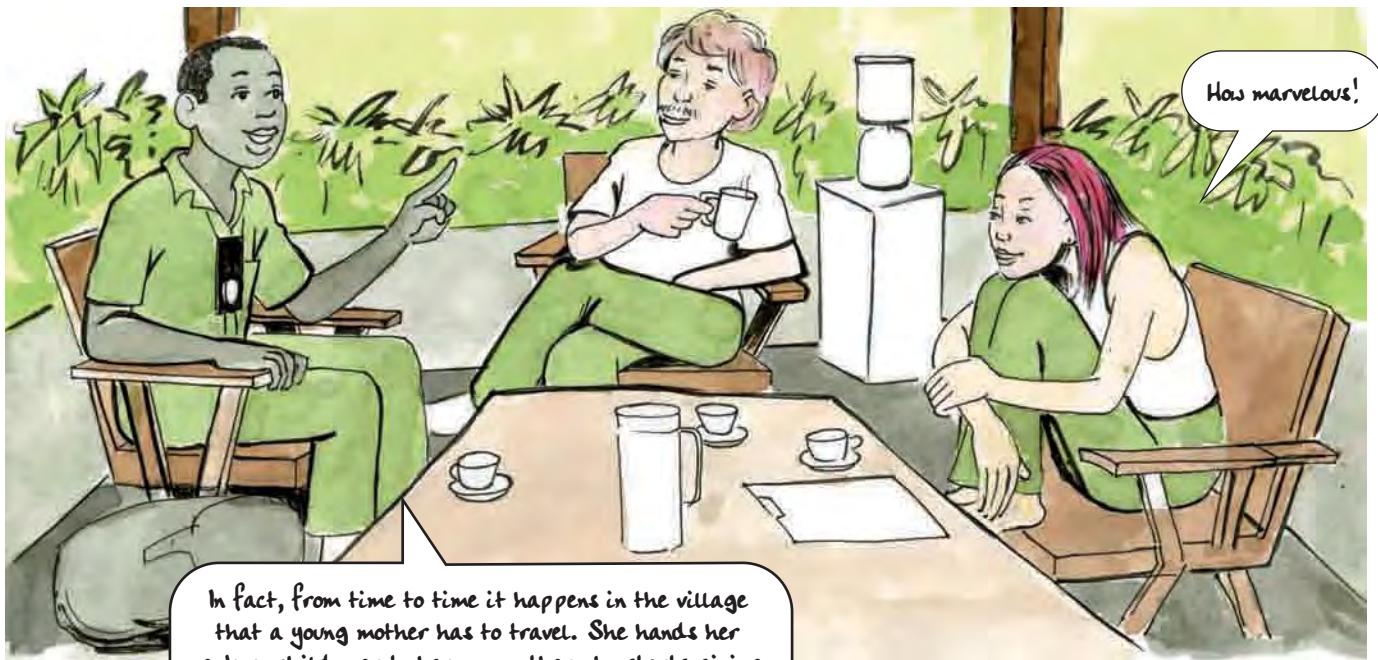
Information on adoptions

Among chimpanzees, it often happens that an older sister adopts a little orphan. In the Tai forest, we have even observed adoptions by adult males, which is an exceptional behavior among chimpanzees and has not yet been observed in other chimpanzee populations (compare no. 8/9). The case between Malibu and Nana is even more unusual since little Nabu is not an orphan! This makes us think about chimpanzees' capacity to be aware of their own abilities and their desire to see their own offspring survive and for that even hand it over to another individual.



PORTRAIT: NANA AND MALIBU – AND A VERY SPECIAL ADOPTION !

Did Nana think that Malibu would be a better mother for the little girl? Did she know that Malibu could breastfeed her? Fortunately, Grégoire, our assistant, was able to enlighten us on this interesting topic and gave us an example from the village:



In fact, from time to time it happens in the village that a young mother has to travel. She hands her newborn child over to her own mother who starts giving her breast to the child. Due to the simple fact that when the child begins to suckle her breast, the milk production will start.



WCF AND ITS PROJECTS ...

The theatre company "House of Freedom" on the road again in Liberia!

Dervla Dowd, Zoro Bertin Goné Bi

In May 2008 and March 2009, the WCF, represented by Ilka Herbinger, Zoro Goné Bi and Dervla Dowd, carried out two awareness campaigns in Liberia, in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). A new theatre piece was created with the Liberian Theatre Group "House of Freedom", entitled "Chimpanzees, Our Closest Relatives".

So far, the WCF has been able to visit 19 different towns and villages around the Sapo National Park and the Grebo National Forest in the east of Liberia, next to the Ivorian-Liberian border. More than 9000 people have participated in this education program in Liberia, all of whom have now had the opportunity to watch the play and also two films about the chimpanzees of the Taï National Park in the neighboring Ivory Coast. In all these villages, the local people were invited to ask any of the WCF representatives or FDA officers about chimpanzees of the Sapo National Park and the Grebo National Forest. Many people were eager to know how they could prevent chimpanzees from coming onto their farms and eating their crops, and why chimpanzees prefer to live in the bush instead of wanting to live in towns alongside their human cousins? It was during these discussions that the WCF also handed out hundreds of copies of past issues of "Forest Wisdom" to the villagers. All in all, both campaigns were a great success, with local people expressing great enthusiasm about protecting chimpanzees and their forest home. So thanks to everyone who came and watched the show! Hope to see you again soon!



Let's all make an effort to protect our forests

Gregoire Nohon and Emma Normand

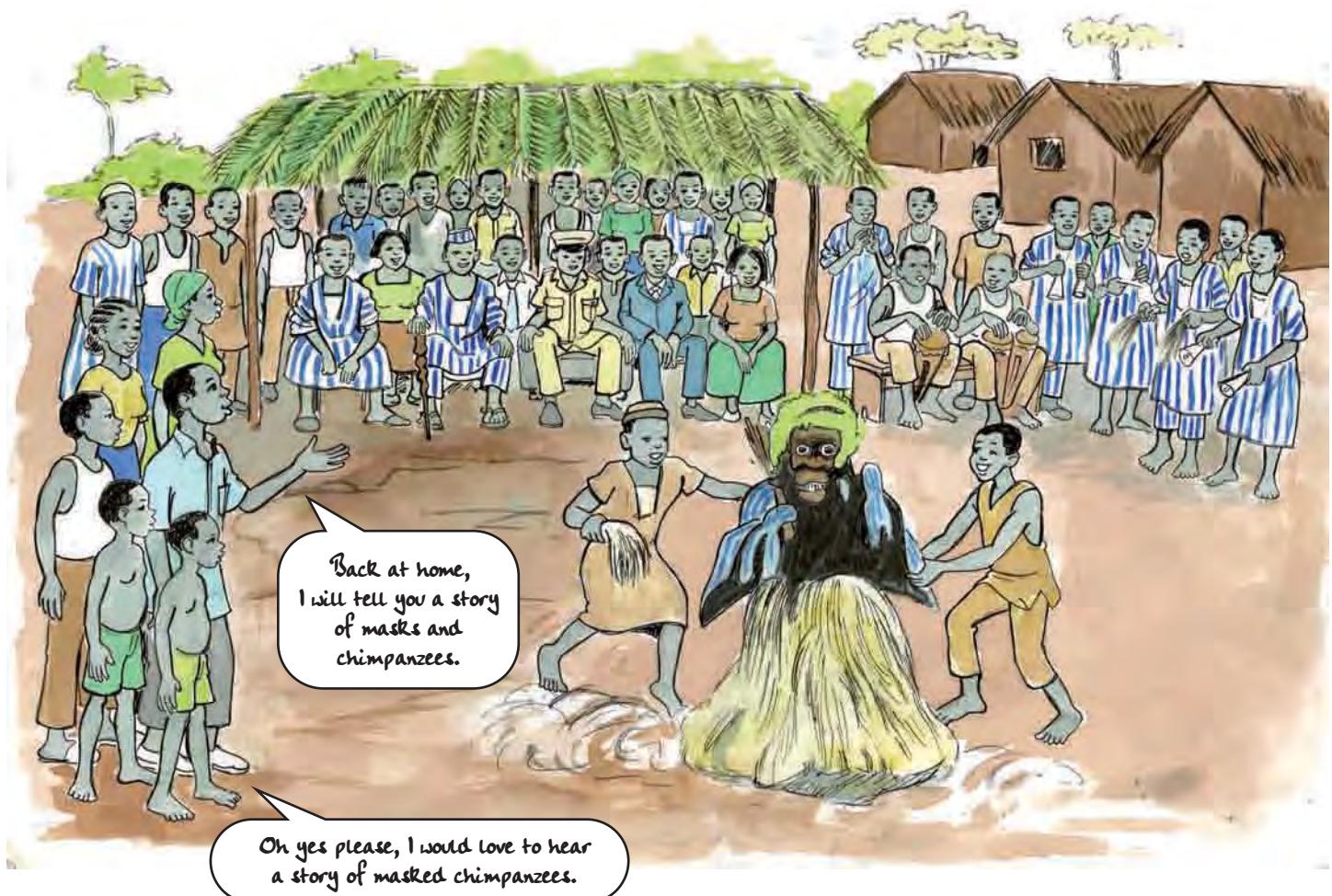
A very friendly farmer approached us during one of our awareness campaigns. This Baoulé farmer said that some years ago he had a cacao plantation several hectares in size in the classified forest of Goin-Débé. But one day, he watched both a theatre play and film about chimpanzees. WCF representatives reminded him that it is illegal to have a plantation within a classified forest. Therefore, he

decided to abandon his plantations and left the classified forest to live in town where he found work and now lives in comfort. Well, this farmer is right since the forests in Ivory Coast are disappearing very rapidly. Once, more than 16 million hectares of forest covered Ivory Coast. Today, less than 2 million hectares are left. What will remain of our forests in 10 years? Let us think about protecting them now for future generations!



GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES

Hedwige Boesch



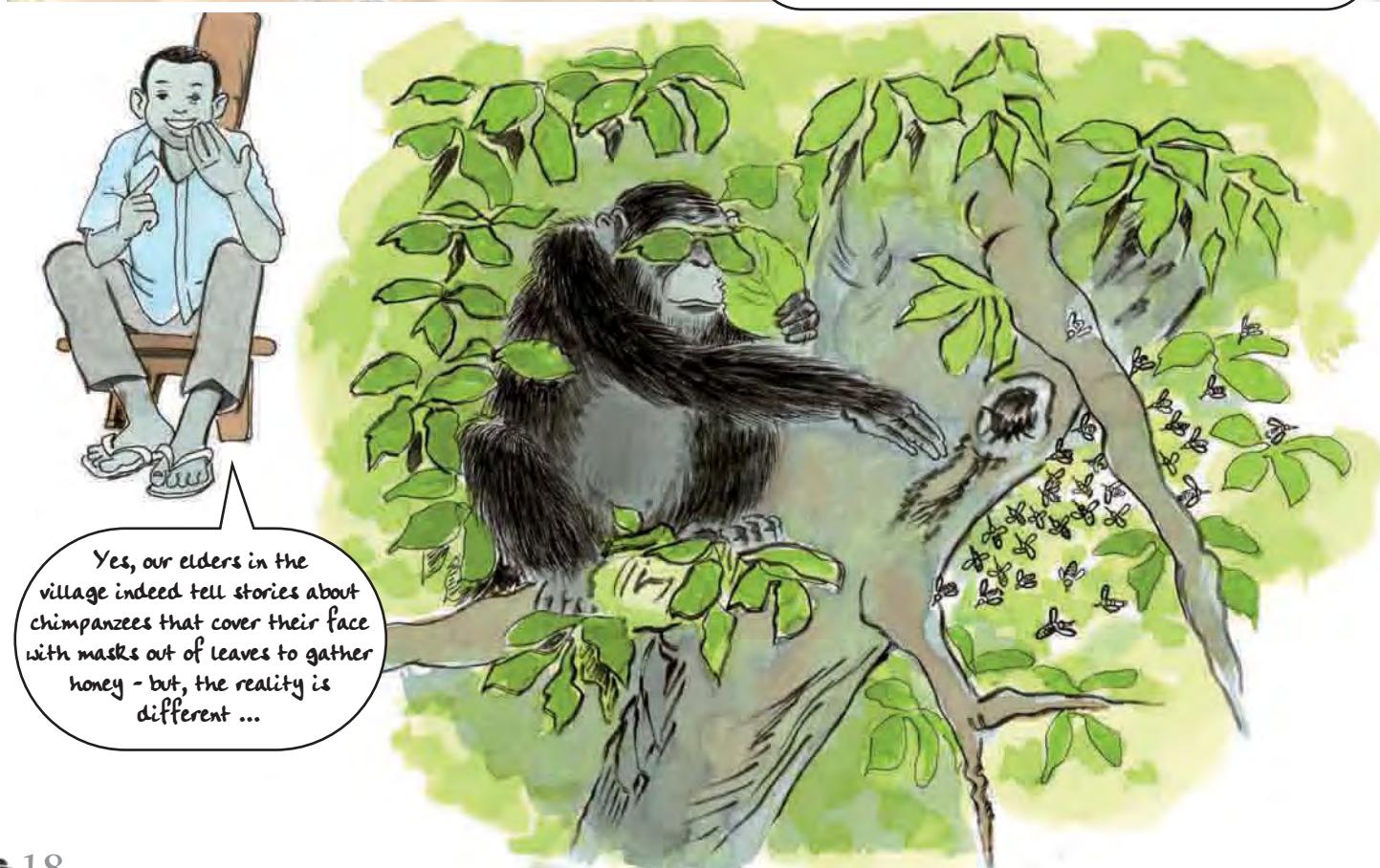
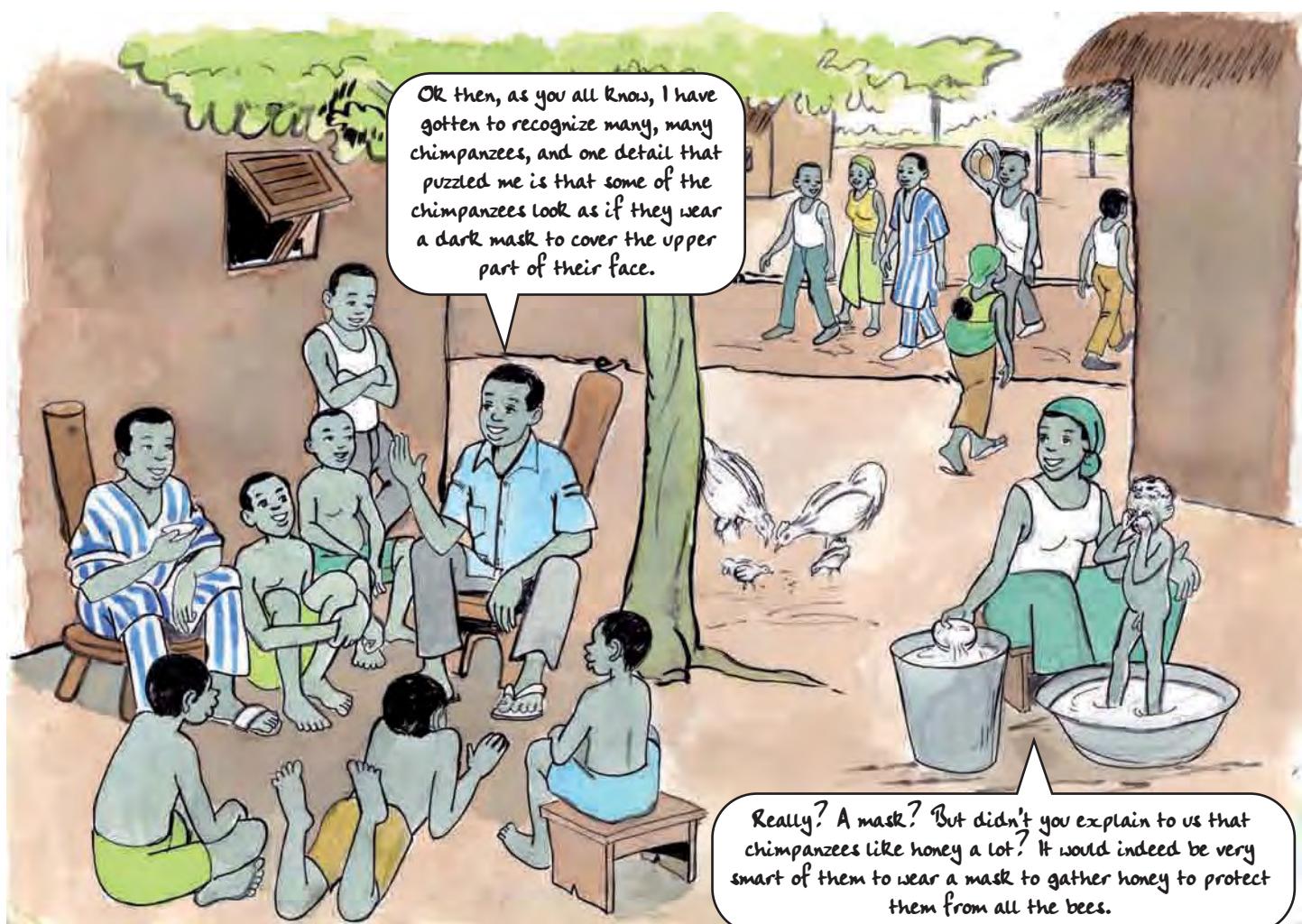
In Grégoire's village, near the Taï National Park big festivities are going on – the masks are out! Since Grégoire is constantly asked to talk about his life in the forest, he uses this opportunity to tell an anecdote about chimpanzees. The masks have inspired him ...



General information on the use of sticks by chimpanzees as a way to enrich their diet.

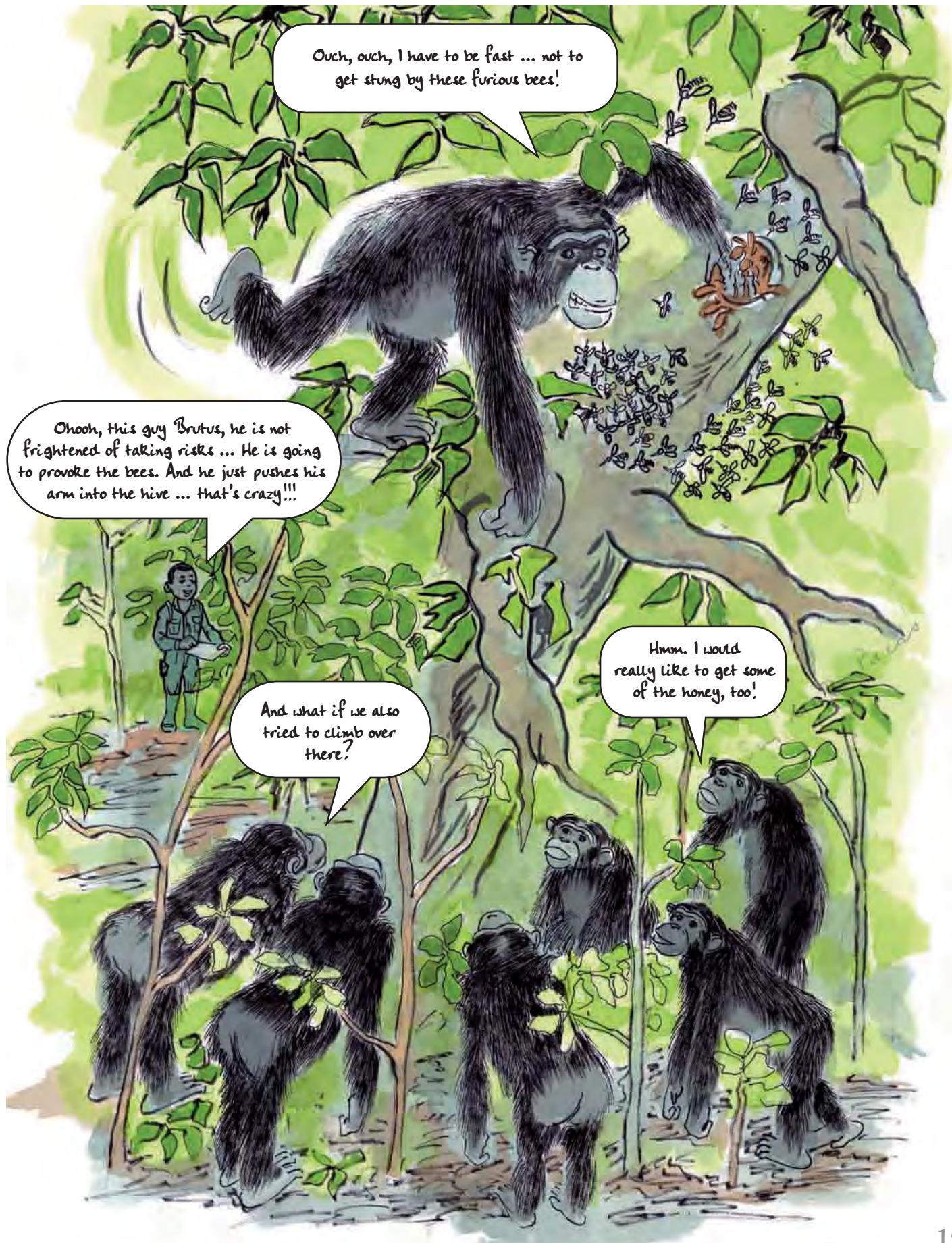
Even though there is enough food available in the tropical forest for the chimpanzees, it is not always easily accessible. In many situations, chimpanzees use sticks to access a number of food sources rich in calories and proteins, which would otherwise not be possible. For example, in many field sites throughout Africa we have seen chimpanzees use sticks to extract honey from bee hives or larvae from the cocoons of beetles under the bark of a tree, or to fish driver ants or other types of ants as well as termites from their nests. These sticks are always manufactured BEFORE being used. This means that chimpanzees have learned that these tools should match different criteria depending on the targeted food source. Food sources of high nutritive value constitute a very important dietary component mainly for females and their infants.

GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES

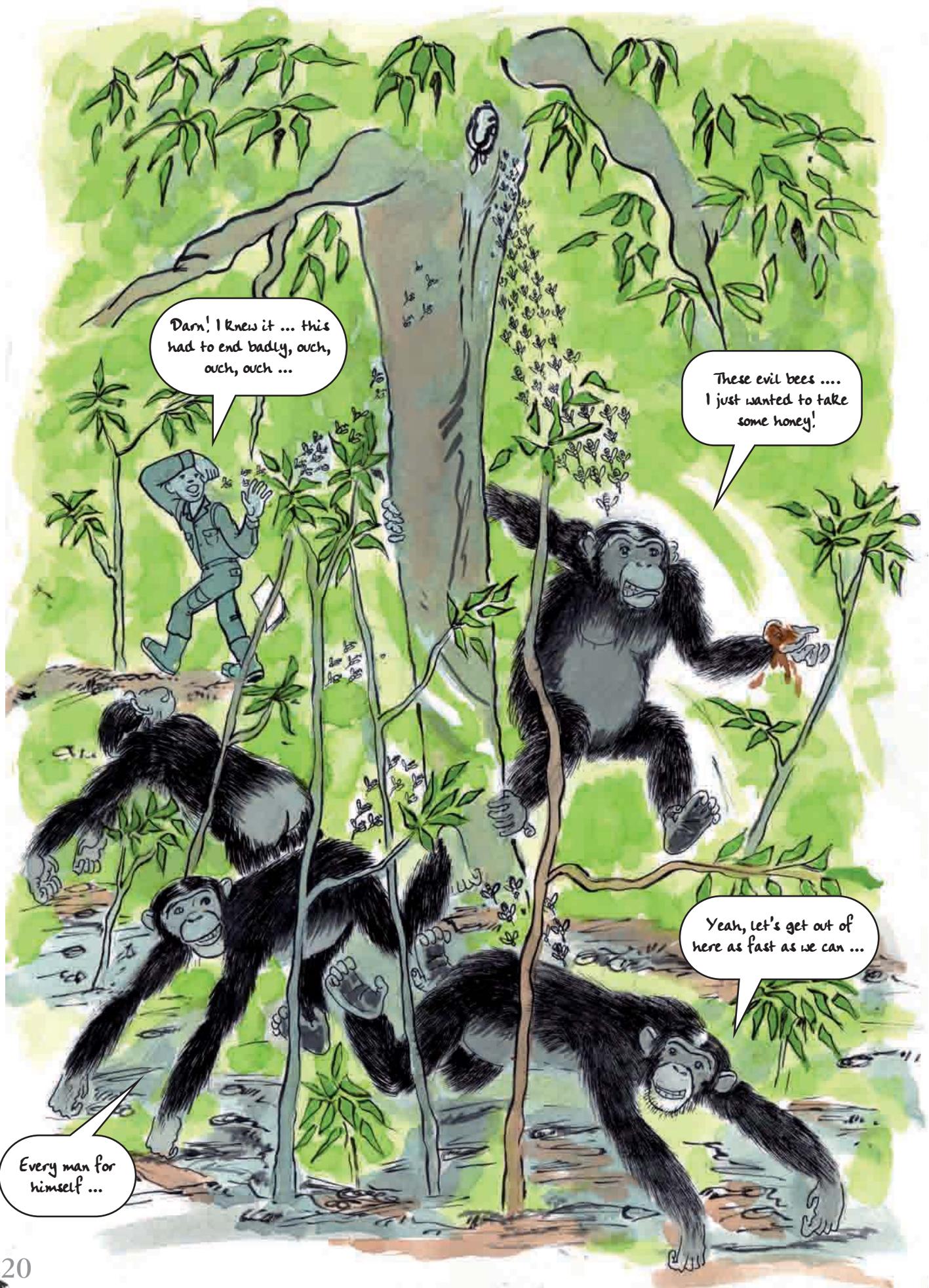


GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES

Grégoire explains how the gathering of honey really happens in the forest ... In fact, Brutus simply attacks the bee hive, without protecting himself, but as fast as he can!

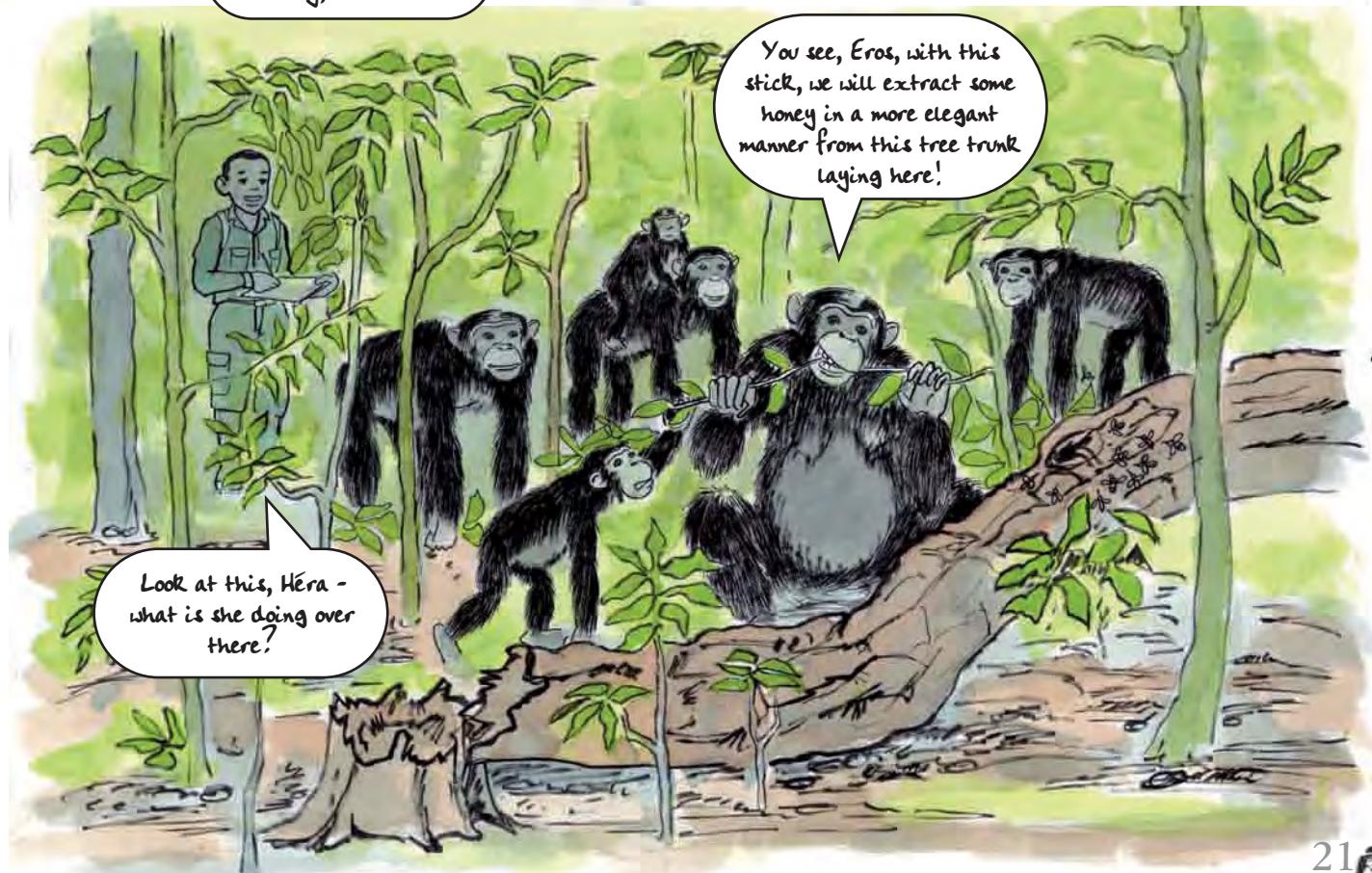


GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES



GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES

Brutus, and the males in general use the simplest and fastest method to gather honey. Females, however, have developed a more sophisticated, less dangerous, but more time-consuming method!



GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES

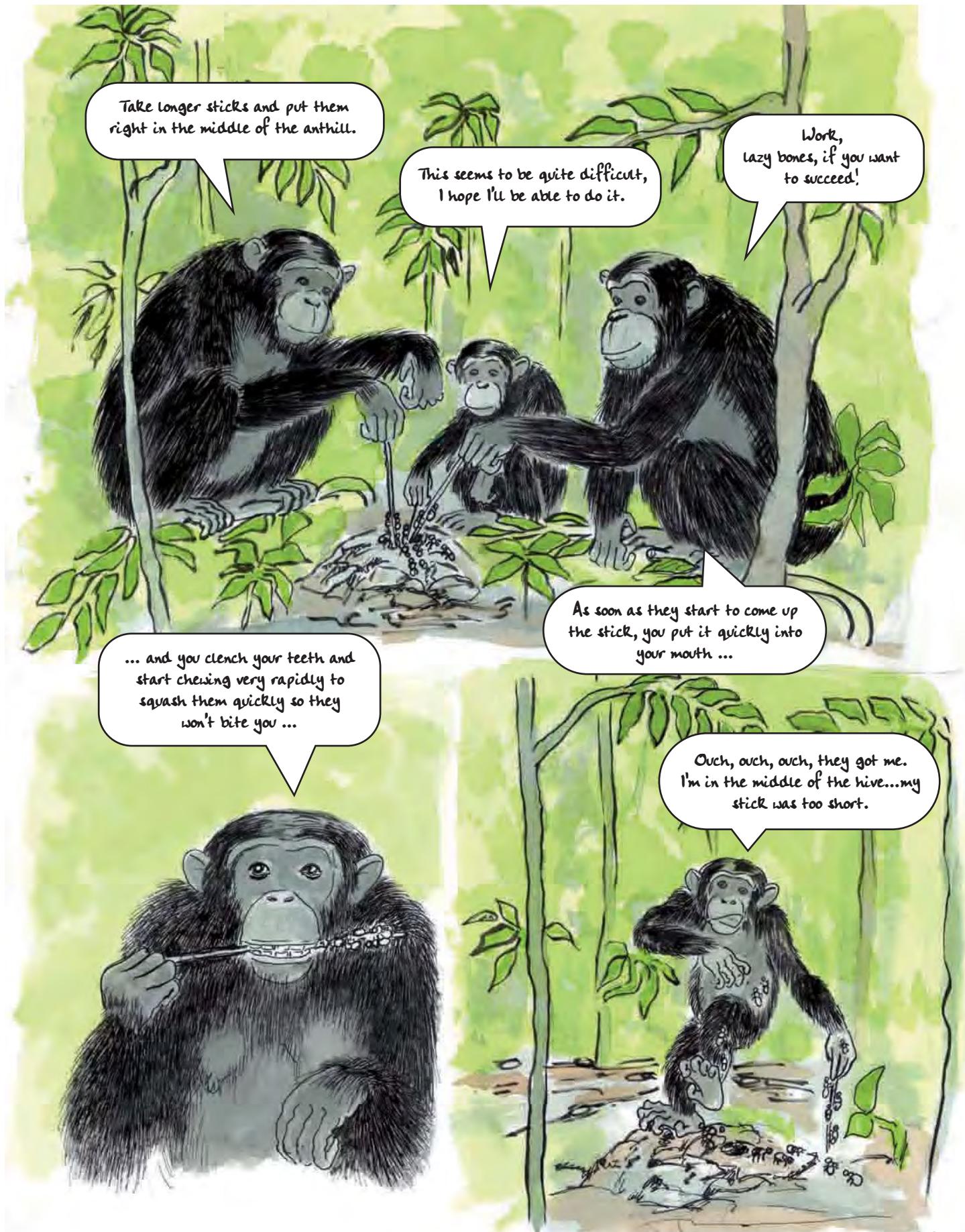


As we have seen with different types of behavior, for example during the cracking of nuts, the use of tools is quite a particular activity which is mostly undertaken by females who invest more time in it than males.

For this reason, we have mostly been able to observe females accompanied by their youngsters using sticks to fish for all kinds of insects and to gather honey. It is not at all rare to observe a female chimpanzee who is feeding by using tools almost all day long, be it hammers to crack nuts, be it sticks to eat insects or honey – a very civilized manner of eating, don't you think?

GRÉGOIRE NOHON TALKS ABOUT ... THE MASKED CHIMPANZEES

Additionally, Héra won't loose sight of the delicious driver ants. With their two infants she makes herself comfortable to savor them!



THE TAM TAM ...

The WCF and the theatre company "Touchatout" in the Prefecture of Boké, Guinea !

Dervla Dowd, Zoro Bertin Goné Bi



Since August 2008, the WCF, represented by Sébastien Regnaut, has launched new projects in collaboration with Guinea Alumina Corporation (GAC), in the Prefecture of Boké, Guinea. In October 2008, the WCF developed and initiated a management plan for endangered species like the chimpanzee to efficiently alleviate the impact of mining in the concession of GAC and the neighbouring areas. This management plan also includes the training of ecologists, coming from the local population, to carry out biomonitoring activities in this region, which involves a detailed study on the number of chimpanzees and their distribution.

As part of the project, an education awareness campaign was carried out at the beginning of June 2009 together with the experienced representatives from WCF-Abidjan Ilka Herbinger, Zoro Bertin Goné Bi and Dervla Dowd. The Guinean theatre company "Touchatout" created a new piece entitled "Ballal Demou" which means 'SOS chimpanzees' in the local dialect, Pulaar. This theatre piece as well as two films on the lives of chimpanzees in the Taï National Park in Ivory Coast and the WCF activities generated great interest from the spectators. In each one of the six villages visited by "Touchatout", the people were eager to watch the performances and actively joined in the following discussions. In this region, the people depend mainly on farming for their livelihoods and therefore asked many questions about how they could make their plantations more sustainable, or how they could continue to farm without destroying more of the forest. We were also asked to suggest efficient ways of living in harmony with the many chimpanzees still inhabiting the area.

This first campaign in the region was a great success with more than 2500 having participated! The WCF thanks everyone for the warm welcome and for the great interest in the show and the films.

Hope for the protection of forests in Ivory Coast



Discussion between the President of the WCF and (to his left) the Minister for the Environment

On the 19th and 20th February 2009, Prof. Christophe Boesch, President of the WCF, was given the honour to sign a FFEM convention on the financing of the sustainable management of the Tai National Park and the classified forests of Cavally and Goin-Débé. The photographs show (from left to right) the Director General of SODEFOR, Dr. N'guettia Kouadio Venance, the Director General of OIPR, Colonel

Kahiba Lambert, and the Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests, Dr. Aka Abizi Daniel on the 20th of February 2009.



On the 21st of March 2009, many people from Attécoubé 3 came to watch the films on chimpanzees and the WCF activities.

